

Amendments to the Drawings

Attached is a replacement drawing sheet for amended Figure 1.

REMARKS

Due to the numerous grammatical and idiomatic errors contained in the originally filed abstract and specification, Applicants are enclosing herewith a substitute abstract and specification including "clean" and "marked-up" copies. The undersigned hereby certifies, to the best of his knowledge and belief, that the enclosed substitute abstract and specification do not contain any "new matter".

The claims have been amended in order to respond to the Examiner's rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically speaking, the subject matter of Claim 2 has been combined into Claim 1. Claim 6 has been amended in order to recite specific method steps. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-3 and 6 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Sato et al. Claims 4 and 5 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these grounds of rejection and urge reconsideration in light of the following comments.

The presently claimed invention is directed to a three-dimensionally constructed warp knit fabric formed to include front-surface and back-surface ground knit constructions and connection yarns interconnecting the front-surface and back-surface ground knit constructions. The three-dimensionally constructed warp knit fabric being characterized by comprising insertion yarns inserted between the connection yarns, wherein the insertion yarns are fixed by a fixing yarn along an inner side of the back-surface ground knit construction.

Another embodiment of the present invention is directed to a manufacturing method for a three-dimensional warp knit fabric formed to include front-surface and back-surface ground knit constructions and connection yarns interconnecting the

front-surface and back-surface ground knit constructions. The method comprises the steps of inserting an insertion yarn between the connecting yarns and fixing the insertion yarn by fixing yarns along an inner side of the back-surface ground knit construction.

As discussed in the present specification, the present invention provides a three-dimensionally constructed warp knit fabric which can be used as a material, such as a cushion material and a filler material, in clothing fields and also as a vehicle seat material. The three-dimensionally constructed warp knit fabric of the present invention has excellent pressure resistance and inter-ground knit construction slippage preventability without the impairment of the cloth's flexibility. In the present invention, the insertion yarn is fixed by the fixing yarn along the inner side of the back-surface ground knit construction. Accordingly, the bending of the connection yarns is reduced as much as possible when the three-dimensionally constructed warp knit fabric is compressed and the inclination of the connection yarns can be prevented. As such, elasticity deterioration caused by the entanglement of the bent connection yarns can be prevented along with the ground knit construction slippage. It is respectfully submitted that the Sato et al reference does not disclose the presently claimed invention.

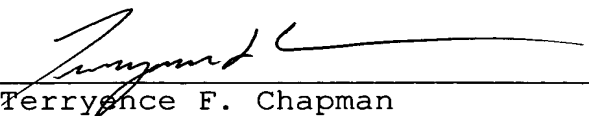
Sato et al discloses a three-dimensional warp knit fabric comprising two opposed ground knit constructions, connection yarns for interconnecting these ground knit constructions, and warp insertion yarn and/or weft insertion yarn to be inserted into the ground knit constructions in parallel with the ground knit constructions so as to cross the connection yarns. However, in this reference, the insertion yarns are only inserted so as to fill between the ground knit constructions and are not fixed to the ground knit constructions by the use of fixing yarns. Moreover, in the three-dimensional warp knit fabric of Sato et al, a plurality of insertion yarns are inserted in the ground knit constructions in the thickness

direction as well as in the warp direction (wale direction) and the weft direction (course direction) so that the mass of the three-dimensional warp knit fabric becomes very large, thereby degrading the fabric's flexibility. A plurality of insertion yarns are used so that the insertion yarns become tangled so that they cannot restrain the connection yarns. Therefore, the three-dimensional warp knit fabric of Sato et al is structurally different from the fabric of the present invention and does not exhibit the effects of preventing elasticity deterioration caused by entanglement of the bent connection yarns and the slippage between the ground knit constructions. As such, the presently claimed invention clearly is patentably distinguishable over Sato et al.

Currently presented Claims 4 and 5 further limit the invention of Claim 1 in requiring that in a portion where the insertion yarn is fixed by a fixing yarn, the number of overlapped insertion yarns is 2 - 6 and a total fineness of all the overlapped insertion yarns is 334 - 8400 dtex and Claim 5 requires that the insertion density of the insertion yarns is $0.006 - 0.4 \text{ g/cm}^3$. These parameters are not even discussed in Sato et al. Since the structure of the fabric of Sato et al is expressly different from that of the present invention, these parameters cannot be obtained. As such, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 4 and 5 are even further patentably distinguishable over the prior art cited by the Examiner.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the present application and to pass it to issue.

Respectfully submitted,


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Encl: Replacement Drawing Sheet for Figure 1
Replacement Abstract
Marked-Up Substitute Specification
Clean Substitute Specification
Postal Card

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